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New Buffalo Times

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RISING TOGETHER TO DISRUPT THE STATUS QUO IN EDUCATION
CANDY VAN BUSKIRK Ph.D.
Meet the author of the groundbreaking book on education and how we can alter the trajectory of the educational system.
CAREER ACADEMY NETWORK
OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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BATTER UP...

BISON WIN ONE, LOSE ONE TO BERRIEN SPRINGS

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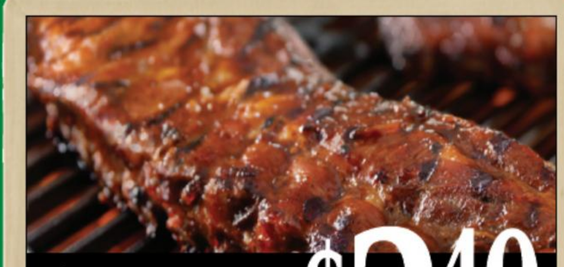

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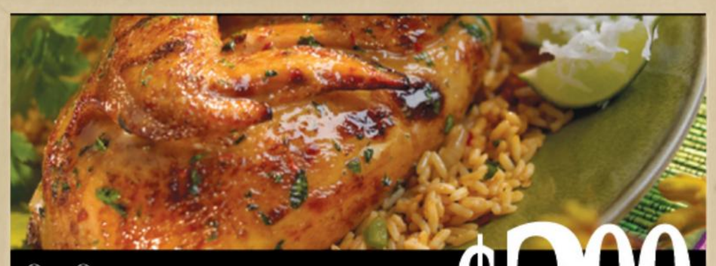

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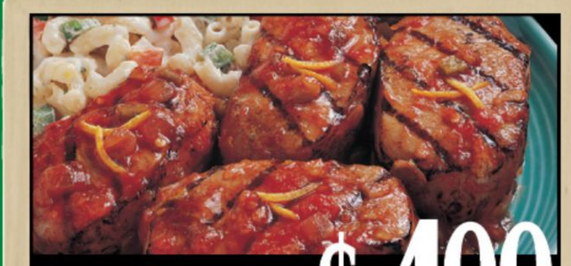

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Quicker travel time to and from Chicago by train begins soon

BY STAN MADDUX

The much-anticipated quicker travel to and from Chicago on the South Shore Railroad commuter line will begin May 14.

A trip from the railroad's new train station at 11th and Franklin streets in Michigan City, for example, will take 67 minutes as a result of adding a second line from Michigan City to Gary, according to the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District, which operates the railroad.

Currently, the same trip on the existing single rail line takes more than 30 minutes longer.

"The final completion of Double Track allows for the addition of 14 weekday trains, revised times, reduced travel times, and new, limited-stop express service," said Michael Noland, president of South Shore Commuter Line.

The railroad has come up with a new schedule as a result of the quicker travel between Chicago and South Bend.

"In addition to new weekday trains, portions of weekend train times have also been modified to reflect improved travel times," he said.

According to the railroad, highlights of the new service include:

- Increased origination service out of the new Miller station in Gary and new 11th St. station in Michigan City.
- Increased morning and afternoon rush hour train time options.
- New limited-stop express train service.
- High-level platform ADA access at the 11th Street, Miller and Portage/Ogden Dunes stations.
- Bikes on Trains has been expanded to include all trains, all year long, at existing bike stations.

According to railroad officials, the new schedule provides 53 trains to and from Chicago.

The new limited-stop express train service will offer the following travel times to Chicago:

- Michigan City – 67 minutes,
- Dune Park – 57 minutes,
- Portage/Ogden Dunes – 51 minutes,
- Gary (Miller) – 46 minutes and
- South Bend – 109 minutes.

"We sincerely appreciate passengers' patience and understanding throughout the construction, temporary busing, and schedule revisions required in order to reach substantial completion of the Double Track Project," said Nicole Barker, director of Capital Investment and Implementation/Double Track NWI Project Manager.

To view the full schedule of train times, visit www.mysouthshoreline.com/south-shore-line-announces-implementation-of-new-double-track-train-schedule.

The commuter line runs between Millennium station in downtown Chicago and South Bend International Airport.

Faster train travel is the primary incentive for the recent start of construction of three high rise towers containing hotel rooms, condominiums, apartments and retail on the north end of Michigan City due to the influx of visitors and new residents projected from the quicker travel.

"We are just so happy. We're smiling from ear to ear. We've been looking forward to this for a long time," said Jack Arnett, executive director of the La Porte County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Arnett said faster train travel will also increase the number of people visiting annual events, like the already heavily attended Grand Lakes Grand Prix boat race at Michigan City's lakefront and more yearround attractions, like Washington Park Zoo and the Indiana Dunes National Park.

"This is going to be a game changer for us. We're excited," he said.

In Brooklyn, New York City toughness is tested.
— Dino N. Fatouros

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

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JOHN HUMPHREY, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
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City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
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NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday October thru March at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Grand Beach Village Council approves village hall improvements

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the Grand Beach Village Council approved a number of improvements to the village hall at their Wednesday, April 17, meeting.

Councilmembers approved the following: awarding a contract to JK Handyman to power wash and stain soffit at the village hall in the amount of $2,600; purchasing 100 new chairs for the hall from Superior Seating for an amount of $18,970; purchasing new light fixture shields for the upstairs and new LED soft white filament bulbs for a cost not to exceed $800; installing screen fencing around the new emergency generator and A/C condenser as well as replacing and expanding the fencing around the A/C equipment and garbage containers at the first floor adjacent to the Pro Shop for a cost not to exceed $7,000 to be installed by staff and miscellaneous electrical repairs around the exterior of the hall, including replacing existing outlets with ground fault exterior outlets, and adding new light fixtures for a cost not to exceed $5,000.

Council member also approved installing string bistro lights at the patio for a cost not to exceed $600, to be installed by staff

Mike Elliott, chair of the newly formed Village Hall Committee, said that they're recommending that the fencing that was around the HVAC and the garbage cans at the upper level that was removed when the generator was installed be restored, along with updating the fencing at the bottom of the stairs with new fencing, which will be enlarged to accommodate the garbage cans that sit near the entry to the lower level space.

The updated seating will be stackable chairs that have a brown frame and are vinyl, as well as will be higher than the current ones.

While the committee's looking to get donations for furniture for the patio area, after updating some of the outlets, Elliott said the bistro lights that could be taken down easily could be hung across the patio.

Regarding the lights inside the upper level, Elliott said that all the light fixtures could be left; however, the yellow shade could be replaced with a clear glass one.

Council members approved furnishing and installing adjustable aluminum stairs at the Whitewood Beach Access at the last set of the steps to the beach for an amount not to exceed $6,000.

Mike Elliott, chair of the newly formed Village Hall Committee, said that they're recommending that the fencing that was around the HVAC and the garbage cans at the upper level that was removed when the generator was installed be restored, along with updating the fencing at the bottom of the stairs with new fencing, which will be enlarged to accommodate the garbage cans that sit near the entry to the lower level space.

Council members approved building stairs from the viewing platform at Ely Beach Access to the revetment and furnishing and installing an adjustable aluminum stair section to the beach.

Walder said that they received two proposals, with the higher bid being from ELD that's based on composite stair treads and railing to match the deck and at the boardwalk at the bottom, a composite deck and railing to match what's there. Lakeshore Customs had the lower bid, which didn't focus on composite material. Council members were in favor of the composite material and authorized council president Harry Walder to negotiate a lower bid not to exceed $33,270 with ELD.

Councilmembers approved council member Ed Brandes exploring the village sponsoring a fireworks display this summer.

Brandes said that he understood that there are a lot of "moving parts," such as getting the right operator, controlling the traffic and getting access to the beach safely. He added that he believes that it would be a public/private collaboration. Walder said that he talked with attorney Sara Senica, who said that the village would have no issues with liability as long as a licensed operator was involved.

The purchase of seven sets of new golf clubs as rental clubs for the Pro Shop for the not to exceed amount of $3,500 was approved.

I don't do meetings. At Chanel, there are no meetings. At Chanel, we do what we want, whenever we want and it works. And Fendi is the same.
— Karl Lagerfeld

The purchase of a new B&B Sprayerfrom from Spartan for use on the golf course in the amount of $18,345.26 and of a new articulator rough mower for the course from Revels Turf & Tractor for $28,999 were approved.

The repair of the Kioti Tractor used for the course, which includes replacing the turbo on the motor, the entire muffler assembly and the seals for a cost not to exceed $7,000 was approved.

Councilmembers approved the purchase of a one-year contract with Lexipol for their Grant Finder User subscription, which will be shared with the Village of Michiana at a cost of $997.50. Walder said that he's been working for several months on finding an effective way to chase grants and feels that this will be a good investment.

The purchase from Flock Safety for two additional license reading cameras for a one-time cost of $1,300 plus an annual fee of $3,000 per camera for a total first year cost of $7,300 and a second-year cost of $6,000, which results in a total contract cost for two years of $13,300, was approved. Police chief Ryan Layman said that one may be placed between Anna Livia and Fox Trail and the other may be between either on Grand Beach Road or somewhere along a section of Royal, Fairway or Station.

Councilmembers approved purchasing a speed hump to see how everyone would like the humps instead of the current speed bumps.

The purchase from Michigan Cat for a replacement backhoe for the Water Department at a cost of $78,000 was approved.

Councilmembers approved awarding a contract to Wightman to survey the village's roads for $3,520.

The purchase of new water meters, Beacon management system, Badger Cellular controls, Badger E series meters for a total cost of $318,681.47 to be funded from the Water Fund was approved.

Councilmembers approved the contract with Hydro Corp for $9,226 per year to inspect the cross connection issues in the village. Walder said that this is the result of the recent ordinance the council just passed and is required by the state.

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Goldberrry Woods hosts garden house planting

Goldberry Woods welcomed gardening enthusiasts near and far to join their team for a two-day experience planting their Hoop House.

After receiving an NRCS grant in 2014, Goldberry Woods successfully gardens year round in the Hoop House without adding heat or light. Goldberry Woods has been practicing organic farming methods for the last 13 years. They want to use their 30 acres to inspire and educate guests and the community to connect with nature and food.

Julie Haberichter, Innkeeper, farmer and owner, spoke about the crucial role the soil plays in maintaining a nutrient rich growing environment, and how Goldberry's soil started as pure beach sand measuring at only 0.5% organic material, compared to the richest soil in the region which can reach 15%. However, through soil testing, soil amendments, cover crops, manures and homemade composts, Goldberry's soil is now up to 5-6% organic material.

After learning about the dirt, guests got their hands dirty preparing planting beds, removing and reestablishing irrigation lines, transplanting and sowing seedlings. From Team Root to Team Brassica, guests gained experience with each variety of plant and were nourished through Goldberry Woods's authentic hospitality with warming soup, fresh baked bread and cookies.

Join Goldberry Woods on Saturday, May 18 from 10am-2pm, for Part Two of their 2024 Spring planting experiences. Goldberry invites the community to join their team for a one-day Field Planting Experience.

Guests will learn about soil sampling, soil amendments, cover crops and compost. Teams will prep the beds, sow and transplant, mark and label, plus water and lay irrigation. Don't miss this unique opportunity to see behind the scenes of Union Pier's ONLY micro-farm. Play in the dirt and connect with the wish to grow in all living things.

For more details visit www.ombralunare.com/goldberry. —

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Commissioners again suing auditor

BY STAN MADDUX

The La Porte County Commissioners are again suing the La Porte County Auditor's Office for ignoring their orders not to pay a legal bill.

Commissioners Connie Gramarossa and Rich Mrozinski voted April 17 to file the lawsuit over non-payment of a roughly $20,000 bill owed to Eichhorn & Eichhorn, Attorneys at Law out of Indianapolis.

Commissioner Joe Haney opposed the motion by Mrozinski to sue the auditor's office.

"More money for the lawyers, less following of the rules," Haney said.

The legal bill is for time spent on a still undecided wrongful termination suit brought against La Porte County government by former La Porte County Highway Department Superintendent and current La Porte County Republican Party Chairman Allen Stevens and two other employees let go from their positions.

Gramarossa said the commissioners approved payment over three months ago, but La Porte County Auditor Tim Stabosz has not released a check to cover the bill.

She said Stabosz is obligated to issue checks on any payments authorized by the commissioners and has been sued by several vendors of county government for non-payment or partial payment since becoming auditor in 2021.

"It's very clear what you're supposed to do. If we sign off on a bill you're supposed to pay it," she told him during the meeting.

Gramarossa also said the non-payment by Stabosz is just because the commissioners have not paid his legal expenses from a lawsuit filed against him in 2021 by former county attorney Shaw Friedman.

Friedman sued him personally, claiming Stabosz withheld payments on some of the legal work he performed for the county because of his dislike for him and to score political points.

Initially, his over $12,000 in legal expenses were paid for by taxpayers but any future payments were stopped until that case is decided to avoid the potential of public going for an elected official's personal actions.

In this matter, La Porte County government along with Gramarossa and Mrozinski are named in the wrongful termination lawsuit.

Stabosz said the two commissioners are being sued personally on some of the counts and he's withholding payment because it's a conflict of interest for them to approve spending on something they are a party to.

He also said he's only following policy established when payment of his legal expenses were suspended.

Now, he said the commissioners don't to follow the precedent that was set.

"They approved the payment of their own bill from their own budget when they were sued personally. This should have recused themselves and sent it to the council," he said.

Several weeks ago, Stabosz said he offered to pay the bill if it was presented to the La Porte County Council and approved to avoid the appearance of any impropriety on behalf of the commissioners.

"I went the extra mile," he said.

Gramarossa said only county government is being sued in the wrongful termination case and the placement of her and Mrozinski's names on the paperwork is just a formality.

However, La Porte County government along with Gramarossa and Mrozinski are listed as "defendants" on the front page of the lawsuit documents filed at U.S. District Court in South Bend.

One of the allegations in the lawsuit is "Mrozinski and Gramarossa exceeded the scope of their authority as public officials and are, therefore, individually liable for their unlawful actions."

A previous lawsuit by the commissioners against the auditor ended with a settlement in 2022, where Stabosz agreed to make due on about 90 percent of the close to $30,000 he owed Friedman.

Alcohol related collision with children in vehicle

A Chicago-area man is facing charges of operating while intoxicated and child neglect after crashing into a utility pole with four children in his vehicle in Michigan City.

Kevin Gordon, 28, is accused of slamming into the pole on the night of April 13 at U.S. 12 and Moore Road on the city's northeast side.

Police said U.S. 12 was closed as a precaution because the pole began cracking and had to be shored up to keep it from potentially dropping on the highway.

Gordon sustained a minor injury to his face while a woman and three children, ages four to nine, in the vehicle were not hurt, police said.

He's charged in La Porte Superior Court 4 with two counts of operating while intoxicated and neglect of a dependent, all Level 6 felonies.

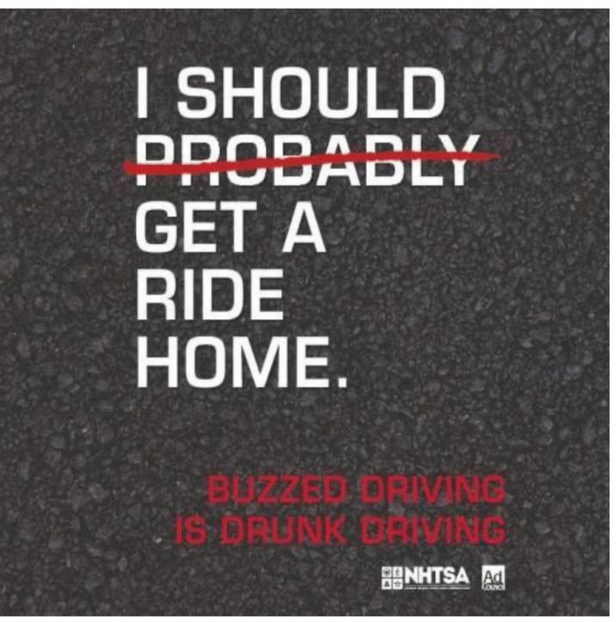
Police said the OWI charges were upgraded from a misdemeanor because of children being in the vehicle and Gordon having a prior OWI conviction from 2023 in Niles, Michigan,.

His alleged blood alcohol level was not revealed but the investigation shows he had been drinking since early in the afternoon, court documents revealed.

Police said Gordon yelled and screamed at emergency responders and was uncooperative during the investigation of the crash.

He was also cited for a child restraint violation in connection with one of the children being thrown into the back of the 2014 Dodge Journey from the impact with the pole.

Gordon of Riverdale, Illinois could face an up to 30 month prison sentence on each of the three felony counts. — STAN MADDUX



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HIKERS TO SEARCH FOR WILDFLOWERS AT WARREN WOODS

The Harbor Country Hikers will walk the trails of Warren Woods State Park in search of wildflowers on a May 4 hike at Warren Woods State Park.

The park, notable for its collection of early spring flowers, is located on Elm Valley Road in Three Oaks. The hike will get underway at 1 p.m.

Warren Woods offers some 311 acres of old-growth, climax forest, dominated by American beech, sugar maple and tulip poplar trees. Some of these trees are more than 100 feet tall and 5 feet in diameter, and they are among the oldest in Southwest Michigan. The hike offers spectacular views of the Galien River and its wildflower-covered flood plains and bluffs.

Although membership is preferred, all are invited to join this hike. Those who attend are advised to wear long pants, sturdy shoes or boots, a sun hat and insect repellent, and to bring plenty of water.

For more information about this hike, including driving directions to the park entrance, visit the Hikers' website, www.harborcountryhikers.com, or its Facebook page. — STAFF REPORTS

30th annual Art Attack taking place this weekend

Harbor Country's Art Attack, an annual showcase of artistic and creative activity, will take place Friday through Sunday, April 26-28.

Art lovers all over the area look forward to the final weekend of April, when they have an opportunity to immerse themselves in a number of unique art-oriented events that take place throughout Harbor Country during the weekend. Over the years Art Attack has gotten a well-deserved reputation as one of the Midwest's most eclectic, interactive celebrations of all that is art. The event is chock full of eclectic experiences. It is not just for art galleries. It is a time to show the art form found in many of our Harbor Country's businesses. It is an opportunity for the business community to express their creativity in the things they do every day.

Art Attack offers a full palette of colorful activities, including gallery receptions, artist's workshops, demonstrations, exhibitions, open houses, tours, visiting artists' studios, and more.

Art Attack organizers and sister duo Rita and Jennifer Cochran said that they have a couple theories on why the event has survived for such a long time.

"People want that experience – to see artists' work, to talk to them, to get their hands dirty," said Rita who, along with Jennifer, owns Local Color Gallery in Union Pier.

Seeing a painting through the artist's eyes gives insight into the artistic process that may have eluded the viewer without the artist's help.

Art Attack attendees who place their names, addresses and phone numbers in the Art Attack "paint cans" set out at participating establishments will be eligible to win gift baskets full of valuable prizes donated by area businesses. The lucky winners will be contacted after the drawing at the end of the weekend.

The winners of the lovely gift baskets full of valuable prizes that are donated by area businesses will be contacted after the weekend event.

For a full list of events, visit www.michiganartattack.com. — STAFF REPORTS

Library program to tell story of the creation of Great Lakes

Berrien County Naturalist Katy Swanson will tell the story of the Great Lakes in a presentation at the New Buffalo Township Library Wednesday, May 7.

The Great Lakes began millions of years ago, and they continue to change, thanks to both geological and human activities.

The lakes have been affected by rifting continents and mile-high glaciers. They have witnessed some of the largest mammals ever to walk the earth and the earliest humans to venture into the region. In modern times, they've served as waterways for shipping, a source of drinking water for millions, a valuable recreation resource, and a space for commercial fishing. They've helped provide power to industry and, unfortunately, have been a dumping ground for the waste products of that industry..

This presentation begins at 6 p.m. and is free and open to all. It is sponsored by the Friends of the New Buffalo Library.

The New Buffalo Township Library is located at 33 N. Thompson Street in downtown New Buffalo. — STAFF REPORTS

Authorities cracking down on juveniles with guns

BY STAN MADDUX

Another juvenile allegedly caught with a gun in Michigan City has been charged as an adult.

The latest case involves a 17-year-old boy with a prior firearms related offense in juvenile court allegedly having a handgun converted into firing like a machine gun.

La Porte County Prosecutor Sean Fagan said his more aggressive stance in recent months is aimed at helping to reduce gun violence among youth in Michigan City.

"We can't deal with everything involving youth and guns, but we can at least make a small step. This is part of that small step," he said.

Brandon Haynes is charged in La Porte Superior Court 1 with dangerous possession of a firearm and possession of a machine gun, both Level 5 felonies.

According to court documents, Haynes on April 19 was a passenger in a vehicle followed by police due to suspicious activity in a known drug neighborhood to a gas station at 1204 Franklin Street.

Another young person in the vehicle took off running and, during a foot chase, dropped the gun he was carrying in his hand.

Police said the gun belonged to Haynes, who was adjudicated in juvenile court for dangerous possession of a firearm in 2022.

Haynes could face anywhere from a one year to six year sentence on each count

SCHOLASTICS

New Buffalo school board approves Cassie King as elementary principal

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education approved Cassie King as the elementary school principal effective July 1 at their meeting Monday, April 22.

In January, King was approved as interim principal. She had been at the Lakeshore School District for the past 18 years. Prior to coming to New Buffalo, she taught first grade at Roosevelt Elementary School.

New Buffalo Area Schools Superintendent Adam Bowen said that he and Denise Tuszynski, director of human resources, had spent the Wednesday after spring break gathering information about King at the elementary school.

He said that they found nothing but positive reviews about her.

"She's an effective leader, who listens to all the teachers, she works very well with the kids - all of the feedback came back that we need to employ her full time," Bowen said.

Board members also approved the hiring of two elementary school teachers: Sophia Giannetti as third grade teacher and Amber Skido as fifth grade teacher.

An alumna of New Buffalo High School, Giannetti has been subbing in the district for the past two years and leads the summer day camp. Skido has six years' experience in fifth grade and currently works at Marsh Elementary in Michigan City.

Board members accepted the resignation, for retirement purposes, of current fifth grade teacher Maria Churchill at the end of the school years, as well as Hilary Cunningham, school social worker, who has accepted a position at St. Joseph Public Schools.

Board members approved the contract between New Buffalo Area Schools and the "Developer", Bison Property Development Partners LLC, for the development of the property located at 12291 Lubke Road, or Bison Preserve.

Bowen said many meetings, which involved board president Lisa Werner and members Denise Churchill and Steven Donnelly, were spent "going around all the scenarios and every possibility with the contract." Thrun, the district's law firm, had also been hearing their side of what they wanted in the agreement.

Members of the Spanish Club visited Spain over spring break

"Finally, we have reached that point where we're here today and it's an exciting chapter but also a stressful chapter as we're trying to balance the needs of our community and the property over there," Bowen said.

More information on the project is available at https://www.nbas.org/page/bison-preserve.

A marketing agreement with DNA Creative was approved.

High school Spanish teacher Matt Bayley and Advanced Placement Spanish students presented on the school's every other year spring break trip to Spain.

Students visited the cities of Cordoba and Seville and one of the oldest bullfighting arenas in the world, which is in Ronda, Spain. Students stood with host families who are part of the exchange program through The English Business in Seville, where they could immerse themselves in Spanish customs and daily life.

Upon their return, six of the six AP students felt that their Spanish had improved and that they feel more comfortable speaking Spanish in class as a result of using grammar and vocabulary that they'd learned.

Dwayne Whitmyer, director of the Performing Arts Center, said in a presentation that the center has undergone three phases of improvements since August 2022.

During Phase One, a new garage door was installed in the back. Phase Two involved installing a cyclorama, which Whitmyer said "opens up creativity with lighting" and can be projected on. Last summer, Phase Three involved a number of upgrades, such as adding 45 LED stage lights, four new camera video systems with recording and live stream capabilities and four backstage monitors.

Moving forward, Whitmyer would like to have more community involvement, to reestablish the New Buffalo Arts Council back to where it used to hold regular events at the center and to grow more of the programs. Next year, he hoped to bring back the fall play and to do more radio shows.

Whitmyer said that the number of actors in the school's musicals in the district have doubled, as they went from having 20 to over 45 students this year.

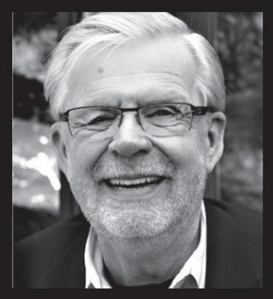
Bowen added that Whitmyer also oversees the STEAM building on Clay Street, and does a monthly check of the equipment and ensures that the building is safe for student use.

The grant process, with the grant application having gone through the New Buffalo Area Recreation Authority (NBARA), to improve the softball field had been denied. Bowen said that this was mainly due to the field being linked to the high school's softball team as opposed to only community enhancements. He said he'd reached out to New Buffalo City Manager Darwin Watson about the possibility of having a field deeded over to the school district "so we can take care of that field and make the improvements that we deem necessary moving forward."

In February, the New Buffalo City Council approved an Oselka Park Softball Field Lease Agreement with the NBARA.

SPORTS

From the Bleachers



COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

Since the Super Bowl, much of the attention on the NFL has focused on the Chicago Bears.

Finally, all the mock drafts can stop and everyone will actually find out what the Bears will do with the first pick.

Thursday is the day.

All signs point to the Bears drafting Southern Californias star quarterback Caleb Williams but the Bears have a history of not doing what the experts think they'll do.

Last year they had the first pick and they ended up trading it for a huge haul that included wide receiver D.J. Moore, and what ended up being this year's first pick and more.

After employing many general managers since the Bears last won the Super Bowl in 1986, the team seems to have found a really good one in Ryan Poles.

I really like him because he is so competent and because of his compassion. Poles traded fan favorite quarterback Justin Fields to Pittsburgh for only a conditional 6th round draft pick. The reason he traded Fields to Pittsburgh instead of another team that was willing to give a better draft choice was simple.

Poles wanted to give Fields the best chance for success. This move showed me what kind of man Poles is, and I have the utmost confidence that he will choose the right quarterback to replace Fields with the first choice in the draft.

The Bears also have the 9th pick in the draft, and that one has everyone guessing what the Bears will do. Because they only have four picks this year, many believe the Bears will try to trade the pick for more draft capital, while others are sure that they will will draft a wide receiver to compliment their already strong receiving corps, and help out their rookie quarterback.

Others think an excellent left tackle would be the best thing to do with this choice and still others think a defensive end or tackle would help the team the most. One of the previously mentioned scenarios will probably take place, but nothing is a sure thing.

I may attend a draft party on Thursday night because this draft could move the Bears into the middle of contention in their division.

It won't be easy because the Lions have gotten really good, the Packers are the Packers and always give the Bears a hard time, and the Vikings will continue to be a good team if they can find another good quarterback.

My belief is that Poles has put together a solid team that will make big strides this season and in the years to come. Saturday Night :ive had a sketch years ago where overzealous Bears fans bragged about "Da Bears," and I think it may be time to bring that skit out of the mothballs. This season will be the most entertaining in decades.

Amy Poehler said, "The only way we will survive is by being kind. The only way we can get by in this world is through the help we receive from others. No one can do it alone, no matter how great the machines are."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

Bison split doubleheader against Titans

BY STAN MADDUX

The New Buffalo High School baseball team split a doubleheader at home Tuesday against Michigan Lutheran.

In the first game, the Bison lost 10-4.

Early in the game, Michigan Lutheran reached base twice on misplayed pop-ups in the very windy conditions.

That seemed to open the door to senior Giovanny Sanchez-Perez giving up eight runs from the mound with some of those scoring on more fielding errors before replaced in the third inning by freshman Jeff Tertel.

Tertel with a speedy fastball and good control went the rest of the way while giving up just two runs.

The Bison pulled to within 8-3 in the bottom of the fourth inning when Tertel was driven home on a single by Jaydon Berger.

The Titans added two more runs before New Buffalo scored for the last time after Nick Wolfe with one out in the bottom of the final inning hit a double to the right center field fence.

He then scored on a fielding error.

New Buffalo had two runners on base when the final two hitters struck out.

Other highlights for the Bison included catcher Vaughn Nikkel throwing out a runner trying to steal second base.

The Bison held on to win the second game 5-4.

New Buffalo scored four runs in the second inning to take the lead but the Titans tied the game from two runners crossing the plate in the top of the final inning.

The Bison then scored in the bottom of the inning to win the game.

Tertel, Nikkel and Drew Bowen were credited with driving in runs for the Bison, who improved to 7-4 on the season.

Sam Wendell-Suppa pitched the entire game for New Buffalo and gave up just one walk after struggling with his control earlier in the season.

That's all I want - to shock the world. The only way to do it is to do something hard.
— Ryan Garcia

Bison win one, lose one to Berrien Springs

BY STAN MADDUX

The New Buffalo High School boys' baseball team split a doubleheader against Berrien Springs at home Friday, April 19.

The Bison (6-3) won the first game 6-1 behind a complete game from starting pitcher Giovanny Sanchez-Perez.

Sanchez-Perez gave up a run in the first inning then allowed just three hits the rest of the game, while striking out eight batters in seven innings of work.

New Buffalo went ahead to stay in the bottom of the first inning when Ethan Lijewski and Nick Wolfe were driven home from a double to right field by Hagen Davis.

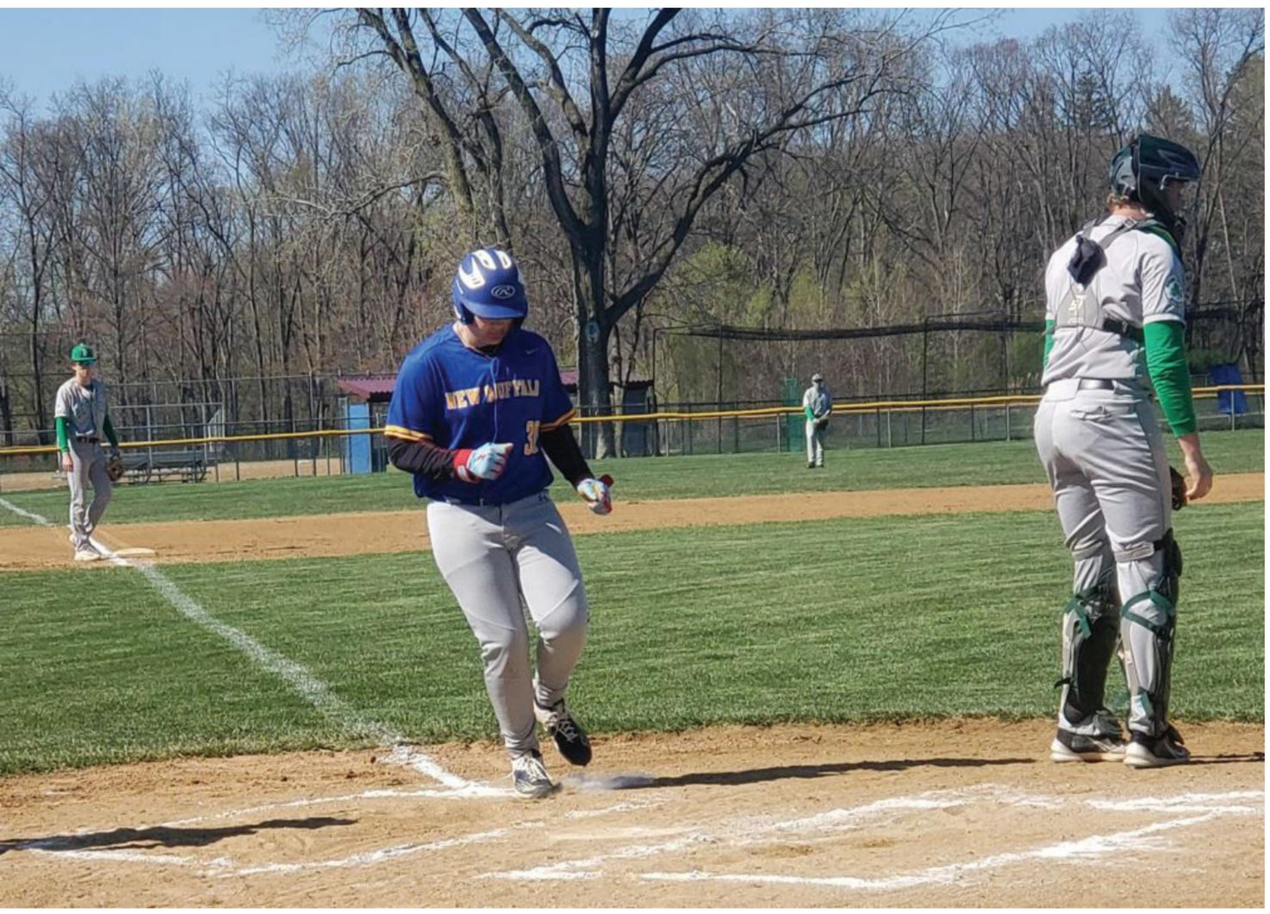
The Bison scored again in the third inning when Vaughn Nikkel, after a single, came home on a double deep into right center field by Lijewski.

In the fourth inning, New Buffalo scored twice on bloop singles from Sam Wendell-Suppa and Nick Messinger and a line drive single to right field by Sanchez-Perez.

New Buffalo's final run came in the sixth inning when, while following a crisp single to center field, Lijewski stole a base.

Wolfe drove him home with a sharply hit single to left field.

In the second game, the Shamrocks (3-6) defeated the Bison 14-3.



THREE OAKS' OLDEST BUILDING TO HOST NEW CREATIVE VENTURES DURING ART ATTACK

The oldest building in Three Oaks, Heritage Hall, owned by the Region of Three Oaks Museum, will be the site for local artists and crafters to sell their works. during Art Attack Weekend, April 26-28.

Also on display at Heritage Hall (8 E. Linden Street) will be original photographs of area pioneers from the 1850s. Included in the sale are paintings, home-crafted goods and antique collectables.

Hours of the sale are: Friday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to to 6 p.m.; Saturday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Region of Three Oaks Museum is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and presentation of local history.

The museum, at 5 Featherbone Avenue, will open for its 2024 season Friday May 3. — STAFF REPORTS

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Chamber guide invites everyone to 'coast in' to the area

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

There's a common thread that weaves itself in and out of each of the communities in Harbor Country.

"Each Harbor Country community has its own character - but we all have our Great Lakes water running through its veins," Kimberlee Wendt, executive director of the chamber, said.

This is evident on the cover of this year's Harbor Country Guide, which was unveiled to chamber members at Ghost Isle Brewery in New Buffalo Thursday, April 18.

The cover, which features a picture of kayakers coasting down a clear body of water underneath a blue sky that has cotton candy clouds suspended to it, was taken by Patty Knicker, the chamber's member development manager, during a Kayaks and Education Tour in the Galien River.

"While we know that Lake Michigan is the crown jewel of Harbor Country, its waterways that lead from the lake into our nine communities is its lifeblood," Wendt said.

Kayaks and Brews, which debuted last summer, is a collaboration between Chikaming Open Lands (COL) and Ghost Isle Brewery that highlights environmental education and community engagement as caretakers of the area's natural resources.

"This program was formed to help get people out on the Galien River Marsh - it was just a great community initiative to get people interacting with our waterways," COL Education and Community Outreach Coordinator Grace Fradenburg said.

This year's guide is larger than ever, as 20 pages needed to be added to it to accommodate the community of Bridgman, which became a Harbor Country community in January.

Wendt said the guide serves a directory for the chamber's over 450 members.

"We hear them (others) call it 'the guide magazine' or 'the tourist publication...' Everybody has a great name for it but they don't actually realize all those people in there are truly members of our chamber and we truly appreciate them," she said.

The guide is distributed at all Michigan Travel Centers and is well stocked at pivotal major traffic hubs throughout the regional swath from Chicago to South Bend and north to Traverse City. An estimated 325,000 readers pursue the digital version, which features web hyperlinks for business listings and ads on HarborCountry.org.

Wendt said all those who advertise in the guide spread the word on what all the area has to offer.

"You enable us to spread the word the best way possible on a state level with Pure Michigan, on a tristate in this area as well as in a digital version nationally and worldwide - we do have lots of news that happens in Europe or over in other countries," she said.

For the 25th year, the guide was put together by Tim Rogers, president of Fusion Design Group, Ltd.

Chuck Garasic helped with the storing of the 25,000 palettes of the guides.

Knicker, whose photography is apparent throughout the publication, put together the guide's event listings.

Editorial features were written by Holly Schulman.

For the second year, the guide was being unveiled at Ghost Isley Brewery.

Guests enjoyed a buffet-style dinner that was prepared by chef Shawn Ward, whose experience includes being a chef for the former Franke's in Union Pier.

Bob Sima said that he and his parents, Elizabeth and Jim, are celebrating Ghost Isle Brewery's fifth anniversary this year.

"We are very happy and proud to be a member of the chamber and the community," he said.

Back Pockets provides the entertainment

Chamber members mix and mingle in Ghost Isle Brewery

Chamber members enjoy the appetizer buffet

Bob Sima (center) welcomes everyone to Ghost Isle Brewery as KImberlee Wendt (left) and Elizabeth Sima and Patty Knicker look on

Patty Knicker and Grace Fredenburg stand by a cover of the newly unveiled Harbor Country Guide

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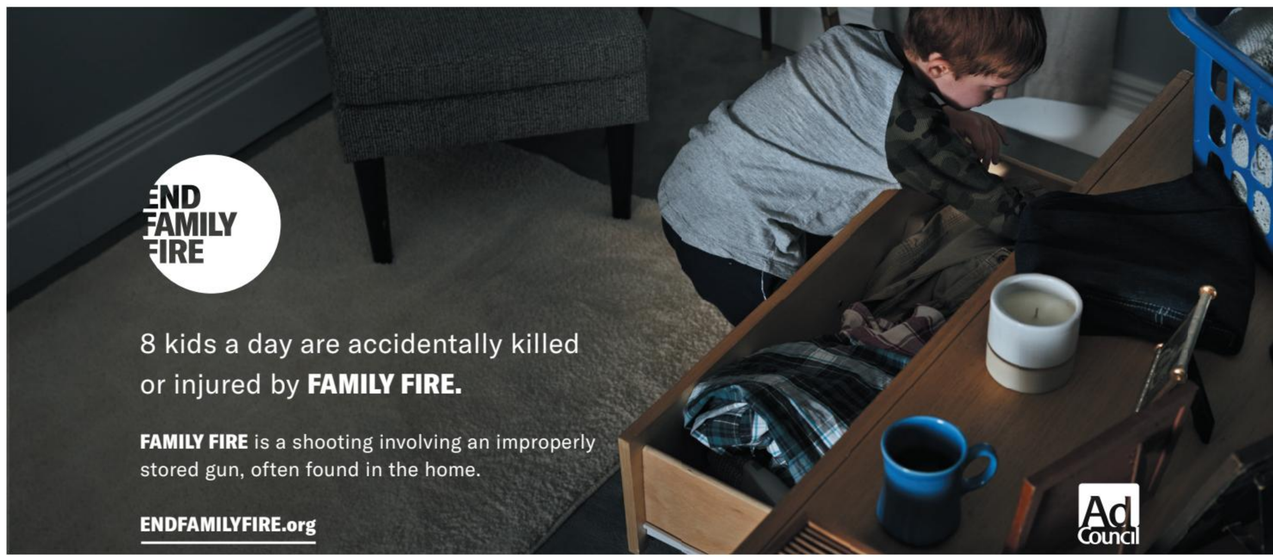
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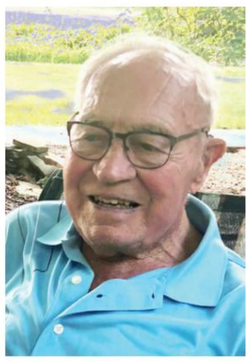
OBITUARIES



Russell E. Holub
1931-2024

Russell E. Holub, 93, of Three Oaks, died peacefully, on Sunday, April 14, 2024.

His life began on February 7, 1931, in Three Oaks, Michigan. Born to James and Anna (nee Siuda) Holub, he married Doris Millman in 1956, who preceded him in death in 1984. He married Lucille Gummow in 1987 she preceded him in death in 2018.

Russell was a lifelong resident of Three Oaks, Michigan. He graduated from Three Oaks High School in 1949; he was a member of St Paul's of Three Oaks Church; his occupations included farming and owning his own excavation company, Russ Holub Trenching and Excavating.

Russell embraced life to the fullest in so many ways. He was an avid hunter, hunting Moose, Elk, and Deer in Wyoming, Montana, and Colorado with his many good friends for years. He traveled all over the world, having been on 30-plus cruises and touring many countries. It was on the Panama Canal cruise he met Lucille and they continued to enjoy countless special trips together. They watched the first light on a Russian Ice Breaker in Antarctica in 2000, went on an African Safari, toured the Taj Mahal in India, and visited Hawaii and Russia.

What inspired Russell the most was his land. You could see him daily, when weather permitted, out looking over his beloved farmland and nature at his pond on his four-wheeler and later Polaris side by side talking with the farmers, observing the growing corn and soybeans; it was all his as far as eyes could see, and he loved it.

Russell will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by two sons, David (Ruth) Holub, and Mark (Tami) Holub; grandchildren, Katelyn, Matthew, Melissa, Andy (Christena), Alicia; great-grandchildren, Drew, Ava, Aubrey, Myla; sister, Shirley Lewandowski; sister-in-law, Shirley McCarty; and Lucille's extended family including, niece Gayle (Dale) Haab; John (Sloane) Shedd, Mark (Rose) Shedd, and Cheryl (Gary) Shedd; and a host of extended relatives.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and two brothers James and Robert.

The family would like to extend a special heartfelt thank you to his caregiver, Alesia Gruenwald, for her love, friendship, and service to him. Also, to the staff and friends at Caretel Inns of St. Joseph.

Family and friends gathered for a visitation from 10:00 a.m. until time of service at 12:00 noon Saturday, April 20, 2024, in Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, 106 Ash Street East, Three Oaks.

Russell will be laid to rest in Forest Lawn Cemetery.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Russell be made to a memorial fund or charity of the donor's choice.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online www,wagnercares.com.

HOROSCOPE

APRIL 25 - MAY 1, 2024

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

The cat's out of the bag and some intense situations may arise because of it. You will need to shift some things around to deal with the blow back, but you'll be very happy with the way things shake out. This is your chance to break out on your own but don't color too far out of those lines.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

Boundary issues will need more attention this week. You may feel rudely pushed out of your comfort zone, but this will ultimately help you see people more clearly. Use this as an opportunity to advocate more for yourself and ensure your relationships bring out the best in you.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

Push through intense situations and face your shadow side. Don't let circumstances get you down. Let yourself be guided to which behaviors, habits, or situations need to change. Dissect problems and detach from guilt or blame. Help will come from unusual sources.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

Relationships have the propensity to get much better this week. It's important that you review your expectations and ideas in order to know what is blocking your from being happy. This is a very passionate and romantic period and it's possible to get things right, this time around.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

Your services will be sought out this week. Whether you are asked to help a friend with a physical task or take on a more complicated issue at work, do so with more of a business attitude. It's better to keep emotions out of the mix right now. Be very clear about what you can and cannot do.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

Enlightening conversations await you this week. On the home front you may have to deal with some new living arrangements or adjust to an abrupt change. At work it is not the time to get too silly or overly rambunctious. Stay focused and get the job done before goofing off.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Financially you'll be feeling much more secure and stable this week. Emotionally you'll be very in tune with others, helping you see the truth in most situations. Maintain balance between your work and play time and be sure you are getting a good night's sleep. Smooth sailing.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

This is a very auspicious time for Scorpio. Lady luck will be shining brightly for you this week. Make the most of it by making the first move with romantic partners or reaching out to old friends and don't be afraid to put your heart into it. Rewards and recognition are coming.

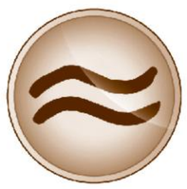
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

You are ready for the hard work and are very clear about where you will put your energy this week. You may have suffered disappointments or set backs the last month or so, but now you'll start seeing some good progress. There is a light at the end of the tunnel.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

As much as you would like to throw yourself into work to avoid dealing with personal issues, they are not going away until you deal with them. Whether it's some sort of physical therapy or mending problems with others, you need to work on intimate issues, or be forever haunted.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



This week you'll finally close that door and move on. Whether you decide to change careers or move to another location, you'll will be saying goodbye and embracing a new way of being. This is something you have needed to let go of for quite some time.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

You may be feeling a little out of step with friends this week. It's time to go out on your own journey and discover who you are without outside influences. Talk with people but don't get attached to their views. Use them as points to start with, but ultimately do this on your own.

It was a favorite expression of Theophrastus that time was the most valuable thing that a man could spend. — *Diogenes the Dog*

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Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

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7		4						5
	1	8	4	6				
	6		7					9
		5	2		9			
								7
			9		8	5	2	
	2					8	1	

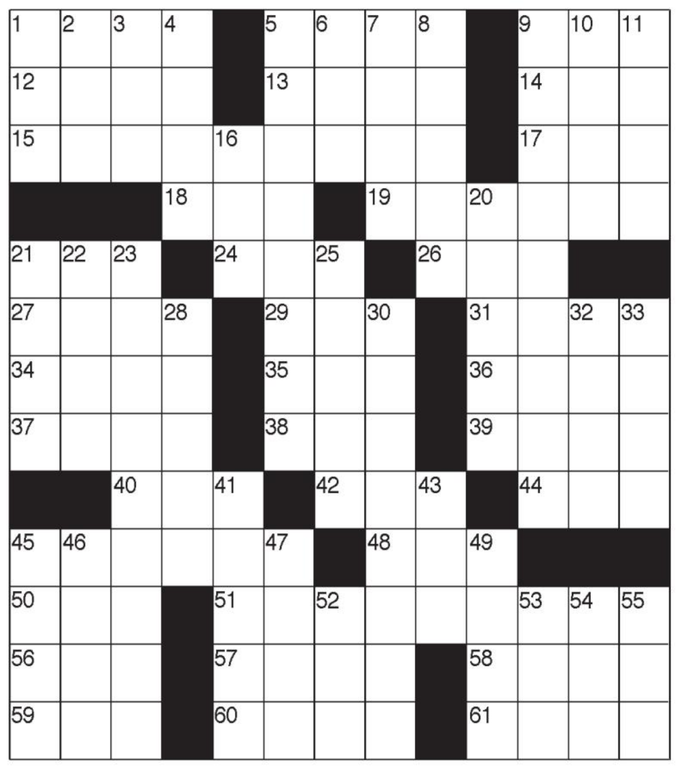
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Ancient race of Japan
5 Ship's wheel
9 Socialist Labor Party (abbr.)
12 Ancient Gr. city
13 Large lake
14 Hawaiian assembly
15 Pirate (2 words)
17 Experimental (abbr.)
18 Corinthians (abbr.)
19 Barons
21 Here lies buried (abbr.)
24 Jap. fish
26 Border for a picture
27 Talk stupidly
29 Promise to pay
31 Dog salmon
34 Roman number II02
35 Celestial body
36 Scandinavian navigator
37 National (abbr.)
38 Multilateral Nuclear Force (abbr.)
39 Dried up
40 Commodore (abbr.)
42 Orbiting Astronomical Observatory (abbr.)
44 Doctor of Library Sciences (abbr.)
45 Battered
48 African native
50 Blockhead
51 Weapon
56 Imitator
57 P.I. dyewood tree
58 Mineral deposit
59 System (abbr.)
60 Red dye root
61 Boat

DOWN

1 Bronze money
2 Capable of (suf.)
3 Nat'l Intelligence Authority (abbr.)
4 United States Reserve Corps (abbr.)
5 Judaism
6 Tarzan creator's initials
7 Claim
8 Lake near Sea of Galilee
9 Protected
10 Extravagant
11 Playing card spots
16 Out (Scot.)
20 Roasts
21 Ode
22 Jackfruit
23 Gear
25 Demeter's other name
28 Aviator
30 Unjustly
32 Twirl (Scot.)
33 Expert pilots
41 Doctor
43 African sorcery (abbr.)
45 Sheep's cries
46 Descry
47 Cloud (pref.)
49 Mere
52 Narrow inlet of a river
53 Portuguese territory in India
54 Man's name: abbr.
55 Relative (abbr.)



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Homeless man on foot fatally struck by hit and run vehicle

BY STAN MADDUX

A pedestrian killed by a hit and run vehicle on a two lane highway in La Porte County was homeless.

Keith Eastbound, 67, was struck on U.S. 6 just outside Westville.

His body was discovered by a motorist about 6 a.m. Monday, April 22, between the westbound lane and a ditch, according to La Porte County Police.

La Porte County Coroner Lynn Swanson said the collision likely happened less than 30 minutes before emergency responders were called.

"Judging by the condition and temperature of the body, he had not been dead for very long. It had recently happened," she said.

Swanson said the investigation showed Eastwood stayed off and on with friends in Lake County, Ind.

In March, she said Eastwood went to a hospital in Elkhart to have a head injury looked at following an apparent accident of some sort.

"He kind of just traveled around wherever he could get rides," she said.

Swanson said a sister living in Chesterton revealed he was homeless for quite some time and an alcoholic, who turned down offers of help.

"He just wanted to live his life the way he had been living it," she said.

Swanson said a blood test was taken to determine if he had any alcohol or drugs in his system but the results won't be known for a couple of weeks.

La Porte County Police Capt. Derek Allen said efforts were still being made to try and identify the driver.

Anyone with information or video surveillance of the collision was encouraged to contact the La Porte County Sheriff's Office Coroner.She said Eastwood was also an alcoholic.

A blood test was taken to determine if he had any alcohol in his system at the time he was hit by a motor vehicle.

The driver fled the scene.

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New Buffalo Times

Local author's debut book seeks to 'disrupt' education

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

According to Dr. Candy Van Buskirk, the time is now to change the country's educational landscape.

At least, that's what she plans to do with her book, "Learn Outside: Rising Together to Disrupt the Status Quo," which was published by Manuscripts LLC.

A former biology and chemistry teacher at New Buffalo High School, Van Buskirk was present Saturday, April 20, at David's Delicatessen and Coffee for a book signing.

The current assistant superintendent at Career Academy Network of Public Schools in South Bend, Van Buskirk said the book's focus lies on the need to "disrupt" an education system that's been set up in the same way that it was hundreds of years ago.

"But our times have changed, pieces have changed - students have had access to technology and different pieces that, to continue this same path with education is not doing justice for our students - who are highly disengaged," she said.

To engage students again, Van Buskirk said there's a need to "build relationships" with them and see what it is that piques their interest - as well as to give them the opportunity to learn more about it.

"And we can embed the four core areas of math, English, science and social studies into what they are interested in," Van Buskirk added.

Dr. Candy Van Buskirk stands by a display of books at her book signing

Examples of where this interactive approach to education is being implemented at public schools across the country are scattered throughout the book. Dana Handley, a New Buffalo High School alumna, is a physical education teacher at a school in California that's implementing it, as well as Bostonia Global High School in El Cajon, California and another one in Kansas City.

Students creating a high earning wage pathway, whether it involves engineering, nursing or welding, will also ensure future success.

"These pathways can start in high school so that students are seeing if this is a bit of interest rather than waiting to go to college and spending money on college credit and you learn that you don't enjoy it, so the family is spending thousands of dollars - and lots of families don't have that kind of money to spend," Van Buskirk said.

At Career Academy, partnerships with businesses and nonprofits are formed to help students form these pathways. An elementary school has been opened up, in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of St. Joseph County. There, two adults lead the academic progress in every classroom: a youth development instructor, who's provided by the Boys and Girls Club, and a classroom teacher from Career Academy Network. From Monday through Thursday, the focus is on project based, competency-based learning.

"On Fridays, the students go out into the community for experiential-based learning tied to the work that they're doing in the classroom Monday through Thursday," Van Buskirk said.

A neighboring kindergarten through fifth grade building, which is also focused on project based, competency based learning, delves into the "world of work." Students may take a field trip to an airport, where they learn about transportation and are exposed to jobs within that realm of work.

"By the time they're through fifth grade, they've learned about 36 different careers and experienced them and explored them," Van Buskirk said.

In the final chapter, Van Buskirk shares a trip to Iceland, which she took with the local book club that she's been a part of for the past 15 years. There, she encountered a group of students in an environmental science class from Colorado.

"They had learned about different physical features of Iceland and different systems they were there to see because Iceland has a lot of hydroponics, so they were in their greenhouses and they were touring their volcanoes- getting to see and do what they had learned in the classroom to really engage their knowledge and to really allow them to dive deep into their learning," she said.

After getting her administrative license, Van Buskirk became an assistant high school principal and high school principal. She earned her Ph.D. from Indiana State University in Educational Leadership and Administration.

Van Buskirk had gone through the writing process in a class taught by Eric Koester, a professor at Georgetown University.

"It's an arduous process but at the end, it's exciting that you've been able to get to this point," she said.

"Learn Outside: Rising Together to Disrupt the Status Quo" is available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble and also at Flourish Books and Plants in New Buffalo.

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